



SWARC NEWS

Meeting Notes

SWARC 6 APR 2020 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order on-the-air at 7:00 pm by President Mike Gaither, K4MWG.

Those checking in as present were: K7RLH, KK4BK, K4MWG, NW3U, KK4QDZ, KK4HAQ, KM4ARS, KN4OEY, KN4JJU, KD4MC, KJ4AEO, KN4WJL, KN4CVK, WA4TCJ, KI4LO, KW4BT, N4BAJ, KM4YTF, K4MSE, AND KA0GMY.

President Mike reminded everyone that we still have raffle tickets for members to sell; they will be for two \$250.00 Visa gift cards. After some discussion regarding moving the raffle to a later date, Dave Krum, NW3U moved that we go ahead with the planned date of the ARRL Field Day. Motion was seconded and carried.

Al Crawford, WA4TCJ, stated that he has the club nametags and will distribute when we get together again.

Dave Yow, K4MSE, Nominating Committee Chair, gave an update on the process and stated that he had nominations for VP, Treasurer and one Member-At-Large . We still need folks to step up to the President, Secretary, Member-At-Large and perhaps the Membership Chair.

President Mike asked if anyone had any needs based upon the COVID-19 stay-at-home directives and he got no response. That's good news! He also mentioned that we would plan to go ahead with the ARRL Field Day subject to revised restrictions on social distancing that we anticipate would be in place by the third weekend in June. Mike also mentioned the ARRL Radiogram, received by VP Brian Knox, KK4BK, from Cub Scout Pack 391 in Garner. They were much appreciative of several of our hams participating in the on-the-air event during March.

Our program this evening was: "What is KK4BK Doing Now?" and VP Brian Knox, KK4BK, lead us through a PowerPoint presentation, posted on the SWARC website home page, that showed how he uses WSPR (part of the WSJT-X suite) to send and receive contacts digitally using only 5 watts of power. His presentation was very informative and he showed us just one more way to enjoy our hobby of amateur radio. He did mention that he logged onto WSPRNet.org for mapping and setup instructions. After you look at the PP slides, if you have questions, you should contact Brian directly.

All in all, it was a very interest meeting, given that we never tried this before, that adjourned at 7:45 pm.

73, Richard Hall – K7RLH – Secretary

South Wake Amateur Radio Club Treasurer Report February 2020

Club Addition and Reduction Activity

Additions

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------------|--|
| Dues | 15.00 | check# 3180 | John Poplawski (WB4UFO) |
| Dues | 30.00 | check# 2605 | Stanley Johnson (W4SFI) |
| Dues | 20.00 | check# 9908 | Kenneth (N1VK) and Ann (W1AAN) Person |
| Dues | 30.00 | check# 8469 | Travis Russell (KN4WJL) |

Total

Additions 95.00

Reductions

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Total

Reductions 0.00

RBC Bank Account Activity

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|--|
| Balance as of 02/03/2020 | 1458.34 | | |
| Addition | 95.00 | | |
| Reduction | 0.00 | | |

**Balance as of
03/02/2020**

1553.34

Christine Fernandini
KJ4AEO 03/02/2020

MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder that it is coming up on time to pay membership dues.

\$30 for individual and \$5 for each family member.

You can bring a check or cash to the meeting Monday October 7th or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will let me know she has received them so I can update the list. If you mail them, give me a heads up so I can mark it as pending on the roster.

Makes checks payable to South Wake ARC.

If you are going to mail it, send it to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

I have taken over as Membership Director from Ryan, so please direct any questions to me.

I will be developing an online form so new members can fill out the application online and mail or bring a check to a meeting.

I will be reaching out to all members here soon to make sure I have the latest contact information, addresses, etc so I can make sure the membership list reflects current information.

Thanks

David Sosnin

N4TTN

n4ttn.radio@gmail.com

Public Service

Check the RARS web site often for Public Service opportunities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Appointed Positions

President

Mike Gaither – K4MWG

Vice President

Brian Knox – KK4BK

Secretary

Rich Hall, K7RLH

Treasurer

Christy Fernandini - KJ4AEO

Member-At-Large

Al Crawford – WA4TCJ

Member-At-Large

Charles Bruckner – KG4MXV

Member-At-Large

Dan Gilbertson

Membership Chair

David Sossin – N4TTN

NET MANAGER

Joe - KM4YTF

Special Events Director

Gino Fernandini – KI4YXO

Public Service Director

David Krum – NW3U

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

LINKS (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network www.ncprn.net

GigaParts www.gigaparts.com

QRZ www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO www.hamradio.com

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS www.jars..net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC www.southwakearc.com

Vice President Notes

VP Challenge. Do something new with HAM radio. Doesn't have to be hard or expensive, just try something not usual to your ham related operations. Suggestions: Switch from Phone to CW. CW to Digital, VHF FM to VHF SSB or Repeater to Simplex. The ARRL has Monday thru Friday transmissions in Digital, Voice and CW that can help you get established in one of those platforms. Check out the QST magazine or the ARRL website, search W1AW, for transmission times.

The Spring Raffle is two, \$250 Gift Cards enabling you to buy what you want. See K4MWG or KK4BK for tickets. Others will be recruited to sales duties soon.

Good Read: <https://www.onallbands.com/beyond-your-local-repeater-15-things-to-do-with-a-technician-license/>

There are events going on all the time: you got Islands on the Air (IOTA), and then there is working Light Houses, don't forget all the special events there is something new each week. Here is one for you Mark, N4MQU is always setting up and working from different locations or likes to run different nets as the net control. See how many times you can work Mark in his different rolls during the week. If nothing else take your radio to the backyard and work some stations. Just have fun.

ATTENTION

Our club is like other clubs we have a mixture of memberships. We have everything from young pre-teen members to those like myself who were active during the Civil War. Anyway the point I am trying to make is us younger guys need to be checking in on our older members to see if they could use any help. I know several have reached out to me and I do appreciate it. I want to thank Brian, KK4BK Mike, K4MWG David, KN4OFB Thomas, WW4TLB. These are just a few who have reached out to me on a weekly basis and offered help so I thank you all but please don't forget the others. I know they don't like to admit it but just to name a few of our older members there is Al, WA4TCJ Bernie, N4BAJ Richard, K7RLH (who is also as old as I am) The point is please check in on the older or disabled members of the club and see if you can help and do not necessarily take no for an answer. Sometimes the no is because we do not want to bother someone with such a small task or just do not feel right imposing on someone. I am repeating this statement from the last newsletter as I feel strongly about it but let's look at the other end of the hobby. How many times have you welcomed someone to the hobby and then forgot about them. How about from now on we say hey welcome to the hobby and if I can help out let me know and then later do a follow up and make sure they were doing okay. It can make a difference to someone enjoying the hobby or not.

FCC Providing Flexibility to Volunteer Examiners in Developing Remote Testing Methods

05/03/2020

The FCC has clarified that nothing in its rules prohibits remote amateur radio testing, and no prior approval is needed to conduct remote exam sessions.

"The Commission provides flexibility to volunteer examiners and coordinators who wish to develop remote testing methods or to increase remote testing programs already in place," the FCC said in an April 30 **news release**. "We recognize that some volunteer examiner coordinators may not have the immediate capacity for widespread remote testing. We expect those volunteer examiner coordinators with limited remote testing capacity to work closely with those requesting such testing to prioritize any available remote testing slots."

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said she's gratified to see that the FCC appreciates the need for remote testing. "Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been employing remotely proctored exam sessions with both video and in-person components, and following social-distancing protocols, where necessary" she said. "Some ARRL VE teams

have **shown great promise** in administering exams remotely.” Somma also said that as states begin to lift restrictions, the possibility exists to restart in-person amateur radio exam opportunities. “We urge our VE teams to keep up to date so they can make informed decisions based on local community guidelines, as each community is unique,” she said. “Our volunteers should use their best judgement when deciding whether or not to begin conducting in-person exam sessions. It is important to us that you feel confident when choosing your course of action, because the health and safety of our VEs and the examinees is the top priority. VE teams that choose to conduct in-person sessions should re-start consistent with local restrictions and guidelines.”

To find amateur radio license exam sessions in your area, **visit** the ARRL website. Candidates should verify with their VE teams that the exam session *is* being held and if any special procedures are required to attend.

FCC Adopts a New Official Seal in Anticipation of Relocation

05/01/2020

In anticipation of its upcoming move, the FCC has adopted a new FCC seal. The redesigned seal is the product of an agency-wide contest that solicited proposals from employees and contractors. The winning design, submitted by Umasankar Arumugam, was selected by a vote of the agency’s employees and contractors.

The revised design incorporates several elements: communications technologies currently transforming our world; four stars on the outer seal border, drawing from the legacy of the predecessor Federal Radio Commission seal; 18 stars on the shield, recognizing the current number of bureaus and offices; and the eagle and shield, identifying the FCC as a federal government agency.

Over the next few months, the FCC will incorporate the new seal on official stationery, business cards, publications, and other materials, including on its website and throughout its new Headquarters. Official use of the new seal will begin following completion of the agency’s move from the Portals to its new Headquarters. The date of the move is to be determined and has been delayed due to COVID-19. — *FCC news release*



The new official FCC seal.

ARRISS to Experiment with School Contacts Using “Multipoint Telebridge” Approach

04/29/2020

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARRISS**) is hoping to adopt a concept it's calling the “multipoint telebridge contact via amateur radio” that will allow stay-at-home students to take part in amateur radio contacts with members of the space station crew. ARISS has used telebridge stations in the past to enable contacts at times when the ISS orbit does not pass overhead to permit a direct radio contact with the school or other location. In a conventional ARISS telebridge contact, an amateur station ground station in a favorable location for an ISS pass on the scheduled day makes the contact and handles two-way audio between the station and the contact site. ARISS said its new multipoint telebridge approach will permit simultaneous reception by families, school faculty, and the public.

“During the last several weeks, efforts to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus have resulted in massive school closures worldwide,” ARISS said this week in a news release. “In addition, the stay-at-home policies invoked by authorities initially shut down opportunities for ARISS school contacts for the near future.”

ARRISS will put its multipoint telebridge scheme to the test during a contact with a group of Northern Virginia students on April 30. For the event, an ARISS telebridge ground station will link with an ISS crew member via radio, and homebound students and their teacher will be linked individually via the telebridge station. Under the teacher's direction, each at-home student will take a turn to ask the astronaut one question on a prepared list.

“This approach is a huge pivot for ARISS, but we feel it is a great strategic move for ARISS,” said ARISS-International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. “In these times of isolation due to the virus, these ARISS connections provide a fantastic psychological boost to students, families, educators, and the public. And they continue our longstanding efforts to inspire, engage, and educate students in STEAM subjects and encourage them to pursue STEAM careers.”

The April 30 contact, set to start around 1335 UTC, will involve 5-to-10-year old pupils. Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, in Hollis, New Hampshire, will serve as the telebridge station, and the ISS side of the contact should be audible over the New Hampshire region on the 145.80 MHz downlink. A **live stream** is expected to be available.

